(b) if so, how many times the DESU sent SOS to the Central Government;

(c) what are the details of the SOS; and

(d) what steps are being taken by Government to improve the power shortage position in the capital?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) to (c) The Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking has been asking for allocation of additional power from the Bhakra Beas Management Board and reminders have also been received. The power supply position in Delhi is by and large satisfactory. Shortages, which have been marginal, have been mainly on account of unforeseen outages of some units and constraints in the transmission system. During 1987-88, an assistance of 1734 million units was made available to the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking from the Northern Region including Bhakra Beas Management Board system.

(d) To meet the growing demand in Delhi, steps have been taken to improve the performance of IP and Badarpur power stations, strengthening the transmission and distribution systems in Delhi and setting up of 135 MW capacity at Rajghat power station.

In addition, the National Capital Power Project of 840 MW has also been sanctioned to meet the long term power requirements of the National Capital.

The gas-based power station at Dadri with a capacity of 600 MW is also envisaged.

Increase in the prices of essential drugs

673. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that after the new Drug Price Control Order was introduced last year, prices of about 300 medicines, many of them vital drugs for treating serious ailments, have been shot up upto 420 per cent;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a study conducted by Bharat Upbhokta Sahkar, a consumer cooperatives Society in this regard;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what steps are being taken to bring down the prices of essential drugs?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) After the introduction of Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1987, while the prices of some medicines have increased the prices of some other medicines have gone down also, depending on the MAPES and categorisation.

(b) to (d) As per the provisions of DPCO, 1987, manufacturers of decontrolled medicines are free to revise the prices. However Government is keeping a watch and has intervened wherever found necessary. On Government's direct intervention, 15 manufacturers have brought down the prices of 55 packs of formulations/bulk drugs to reasonable levels.

Financial disaster of the Farakka Super Thermal Power Project

674. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHARY:
SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:
SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been dranw to the news item which appeared in the 'Financial Express" of 20th June, 1988, stating that Farakka Super Thermal Power Project, a unit of NTPC is heading towards a financial disaster and darker days are ahead for this project;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to save this plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) There is no financial crisis in regard to the Farakka Super Thermal Project of NTPC. The project is facing temporary constraints such as delays in the completion of the transmission system for evacuation of power and nonpayment of dues by the beneficiary States. The Eastern Regional Electricity Board has been asked to monitor the supply of power from the project to the State Electricity Boards etc. who have also been advised to expedite clearance of the outstanding dues and to open Letters of Credit in favour of the NTPC.

Proposals for increasing PLF

675. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the PHD Chambers of Commerce and Industry has proposed for the setting up of a special technical monitoring group for suggesting measures ensuring increase in the plant load factor of the thermal power stations within a time bound framework;

(b) whether the Central Government has since examined the proposal of the PHD Chambers of Commerce and Industry; and

(c) if so, what are the details of the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Identified growth Centres in the 'No Industry Districts'

676. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Government have identified growth centres in the 'No industry districts' and released the subsidy;

(b) if so, the details of the places identified and the financial allocations made to each State during the last one year to make infrastructure development in the 'no industry districts'; and

(c) what further steps Government propose to take to identify more areas in the (No Industry districts)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) 51 growth centres identified by 12 States in 44 No Industry Districts have been approved by the Government for development of infrastructural facilities. During the year 1987-88, a sum of Rs. 2 crores has been released to Bihar and Mizoram Government as Central assistance for development of infrastructural facilities in the following growth centres:—

State	District	Growth Centre	Central Assistance (Rs. in lakhs)
Bihar	Bhojpur	Arrah	50
	Khagaria	Khagaria	50
	Purnia	Purnia	50
Mizoram	Aizawl	Luangmual	50